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Joy Hall to Ernest Hall, 1 June 1896

[Letter commenced by Hannah Hall, completed by Joy]

Bendigo

June 1<sup>st</sup> 96

My dear Ernest

Just a line to let you know we are sending 2 under shirts for Mrs H Gillam & tell her did not like to send the ½ doz because she may think 4/6 each [?too] much for a little boy's shirt. I also send 5 Tea [?towels] you must want some by this time. We sent 3 undershirts for Mrs Gillam last week they were all we could get in Bendigo. [?These] I now send came from Melbourne. If she wants more I can get them for her.

My dear Ernest

Ma has left off rather abruptly & invited me to finish for her. Ma cousin Robert Disney & I went to a sacred concert on Sunday, given by some of the inmates of the Blind Asylum from Melbourne, they were a pitiable sight — there was really no pleasure in listening to either the singing or the brass band, because they looked such helpless creatures, they come up once a year to Bendigo & give these musical entertainments in order to be as self supporting as they can, one of the best singers there, does not belong to the Asylum now, after going through a thorough training, she was able to leave & earn her own living by teaching music. A party of us went to visit the private residence of Bishop Revell (Roman Catholic) it is situated about half way between The Square & Kangaroo Flat, hidden away in a belt of gum trees, you would never imagine there was any cultivation beyond, the house in itself is nothing to rave about, but the grounds are beautifully layed out. The greenhouse summer house & fish pond, add greatly to its beauty.

*Nota Bene* — This picturesque property was left to the Roman Catholics by a lady, & she desired that it should be used as an orphanage irrespective of creed or colour, but his lordship evidently

thinks chiefly of his own comfort. Cousin George left or is supposed to have started for Coolgardie in company with Leslie Hall. Leslie has been down for a holiday, would not Aunt Dora be frantic with joy? I am grieved to hear of Mr Sadlier's departure what lamentations there must have been amongst the fair youth of Roebourne! I can sympathise with them, was he allowed to leave so many admirers without any demonstrations? My answer to Aubrey's first question was rather brief (about family affairs) Grandpa Hall's father retired from the army to take charge of the estate until Grandpa came of age, it was left to Grandpa by an uncle, his father's brother (a brother of his father's), so it never belonged to our Greatgrandfather, but to his brother, why he was passed over I do not know. Aunt Sarah also informed me that there were several well built houses on the estate & when Lord Howe bought the place it was with the proviso, that Grandpa's father should be allowed to live there for life, in one of these cottages, Auntie did not mind telling me, she considered it an unfair thing cutting of the entail "our forefathers never meant it to go out of the family". I do not know what sort of a letter this will be, Mrs Bracher junior has been holding forth most loquaciously this evening, she came down on us like a hailstorm, in the midst of our delightful tranquillity.

Ma joins me in sending mines of love to you two forlorn bachelors.

I am

Your loving sister

Joy H M Hall